(e) At present, the consumer billing system of DESU is computerised and is working satisfactorily. DESU has installed computer terminals in its 23 District Offices out of 24 District Offices to facilitate transmission and retrieval of the data relating to the electricity bills to and from the main Computer Centre. This facilitates prompt attendance/redressal of the complaints regarding electricity bills. The present computerised billing system is functioning effectively. The position is reviewed from time to time by DESU in the light of the suggestions received from the consumers etc.

Clearance to Kayamkulam and Mangalore Power Projects

32. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Financial Express' of the 15th August, 1991 regarding the status of clearance of two Southern thermal power plants at Kayamkulam and Mangalore;

(b) if so, what are the hurdles which are coming in this way of clearance of these power projects;

(c) whether clearance has not so far been received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when the projects are likely to receive the final sanction from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and what is the total expenditure already incurred on the preliminary work conducted at the site in Kerala; and

(e) whether it is a fact the Soviet Union had refused to prepare detailed project reports for these two projects, if so, the details thereof and also reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposals for setting up of 2x210 MW thermal power projects each at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and Mangalore (Karnataka) require clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests from environmental/forest angle with specific reference to major issues like Fly Ash Utilisation, R&R Plan and Ash Disposal Plan.

(d) The question of issue of final sanctions for these two projects arises only after environment/forest clearance and funding etc., are tied up. An expenditure of about Rs. 431 lakhs has been incurred upto July, 1991 in respect of Kayamkulam power project in connection with preliminary work at site.

(e) No, Sir.

Performance of SEBs

33 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the alarming financial problems being faced by SEBs, the Planning Commission has urged State Governments to pay immediate attention to the tariff structure;

(b) whether it is a fact that many SEBs are overstaffed and overall efficiency and productivity has fallen; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take to improve the performance of SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Planning Commission has not issued any specific instructions to the State Governments on the tariff structure of State Electricity Boards. However, the need to rationalise the tariff structure for improving the financial position of the SEBs has been emphasised to the State Governments from time to time.

(b) and (c) The level of man-power obtaining in a number of Boards ap-